

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Volume 1, Issue 2, February 1, 2002

## Inside this issue:

Message from the Mayor	1
Illegal Posters	1
Filing Taxes Got Easier	1
Community Spotlight	2
District Seeks to Restore Vacant and Abandoned Homes	2
Photos	2
Community News	3
Upcoming Events	3

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Av, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Phone: (202) 727-2980  
Fax: (202) 727-6561  
[www.washingtondc.gov](http://www.washingtondc.gov)

## Message from the Mayor

Every resident in our city—from extremely low-income families to moderate-income adults—should have a place to call home: a place to cook and eat dinner; a place to sit and chat with friends; and a place to read to children.

On Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, we took a large step toward that goal. The Council unanimously passed my Housing Act of 2001—a bill that will preserve our city's affordable housing, develop vacant and abandoned buildings, and help produce new housing for people of all incomes.

The new bill will help build and rehabilitate 4,300 units of housing for low- and moderate-income families, preserve 2,700 units of affordable housing, and generate \$14.8 million in taxes over 10 years.

And by dedicating 15 percent of recordation and real estate transfer taxes to the Housing Production Trust Fund each year, we will use our city's economic successes to fund critical investments in affordable rental units, preserve expiring federally assisted housing, and provide down payment assistance for low and moderate-income families.

Recent US Census figures show that new residents are moving back into America's hometown. To continue growing, we must ensure that people have a place to live that is decent and affordable—a place to call home.



## Mayor Cracks Down on Illegal Posters

Our Clean City Initiative is making District neighborhoods cleaner than ever before. 100 percent of the major corridors and high visibility streets, and 95 percent of residential streets in our city are rated "clean" or "moderately clean."

We're taking another step to strengthen our neighborhoods by cracking down on illegal posters in the District.

By adding a special check-box for poster violations to MPD's Violation Citation, we're making it easier for police officers to issue tickets—and easier for our Corporation Counsel to prosecute offenders.

These posters might seem of little consequence. But posters are nothing but paper graffiti blighting our neighborhoods. Posters nailed to trees make them susceptible to disease and threaten our urban tree canopy—one of the District's natural treasures. Posters cost taxpayers money to clean up. And when posters become litter, they detract from community pride and potentially threaten economic development.

If you see someone installing illegal posters, call MPD's non-emergency line, 311. To report illegal posters and request their removal, call 727-1000.

## Filing Taxes in the District Just Got Easier!

Mayor Williams recently kicked off the 2002 tax-filing season by announcing that the District is the first US city to offer online tax service. The District offers individual taxpayers and businesses access to full tax services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week online. Beginning February 1, District taxpayers will be able to register for this free online filing by accessing the Mayor's web site [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov).

Taxpayers not filing online can pick up the redesigned D-40 and D-40EZ tax forms by calling (202) 442-6546, stopping by any DC Public Library or by visiting the OneStop Customer Service Center located on the first floor of 941 North Capitol Street, NE. Taxpayers can resolve all individual, real property and business tax-related issues in one location. Customer service representatives are available to assist Monday through Friday from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Emergency Management Agency](#)

[Department of Health](#)

[Office of Community Outreach](#)

[Department of Public Works](#)

[Office on Aging](#)

[Housing and Community Development](#)

[Office on Latino Affairs](#)

[Department of Transportation](#)

## Community Spotlight

### TRINIDAD'S PASSIONATE ACTIVIST

ANC Commissioner Wilhelmina Lawson has passion for her work. She has brought new energy to the Trinidad neighborhood.

Lawson's efforts and activities at the Joseph H. Cole Fitness Center and Wheatley Elementary School have helped bring a strong sense of community to the area's youth population. Her successful beautification efforts around the Wheatley school grounds helped resurrect a sense of pride within the student body.

Lawson leads the Trinidad Concerned Citizens for Reform, Inc. a key stakeholder group in Ward Five. While her career includes work as an administrator, fashion designer, actress and hospital worker, Lawson has received recognition for her work in community organizing and within the criminal justice system.

Compassion and commitment, coupled with an abundance of love for her neighbors define Lawson's passion to build safe, beautiful neighborhoods where children can grow and thrive.



## District Seeks to Restore Vacant and Abandoned Homes

A recent survey estimates that there are approximately 4,000 vacant buildings scattered across our city. But as I see it, these unsightly buildings should be viewed as 4,000 opportunities.

On January 16, I announced the District's new Vacant and Abandoned Housing Initiative to develop vacant and abandoned buildings into quality, affordable homes. Through the Initiative, the District will seek to actively gain site control and transfer abandoned properties to developers and nonprofit organizations, who will rehabilitate them into housing for people of low and moderate incomes.

The Vacant and Abandoned Housing Initiative will begin in five targeted neighborhoods—Near Northeast, Ivy City/Trinidad, Rosedale, Shaw/LeDroit Park, and Columbia Heights—and eventually expand citywide.

We are committing a minimum of \$10 million to rehabilitate 200 homes in these neighborhoods—and at least 30% of these properties will be available to low-income families. It's one more way we're working to give every resident in our city a place to call home.

## Photos



Mayor announces vacant and abandoned building initiative



District cracks down on illegal posterage



DC Office of Tax and Revenue makes tax filing easier for District taxpayers



Students at Wheatley Elementary pledge allegiance during MLK holiday celebration



## LINK TO OTHER WEBSITES

[DC Vote](#)

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention and Tourism](#)

## Community News

- [CNN.com Rates District Well Prepared for Disaster or Terrorist Attacks](#)
- [Mayor Announces Citywide Commercial Revitalization Program](#)
- [District's Fiscal Year 2001 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report Released](#)

[Click here](#) to view releases.

## Upcoming Events

02/04	<b>Senior Olympics Recognition Ceremony</b> John A. Wilson Building, Ceremonial Room 525 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
02/06	<b>Citywide Black History Month Celebration</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. Library 901 G Street, NW 1:30 - 5:00 pm (Exhibits and Entertainment) 5:30 pm "Redemption Ritual" Reception
02/19	<b>Office of Asian and Pacific Islanders, Lunar New Year's Celebration</b> Judiciary Square, Room #1030 441 4th Street, NW 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  <b>Ground Hog Job Shadowing Day</b> John A. Wilson Building 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
02/21	<b>Educational Grants Awards Ceremony</b> Office of Latino Affairs, Reeves Center 2000 14th Street, NW 3:00 pm

[Click here](#) to view Mayor's daily schedule.

